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(72) Inventors:
• **Bazzo, Maurizio, c/o A.S. Attrezzature**
20090 Buccinasco (Milano) (IT)
• **Boscarloli, Tiziano, c/o A.S. Attrezzature**
20090 Buccinasco (Milano) (IT)

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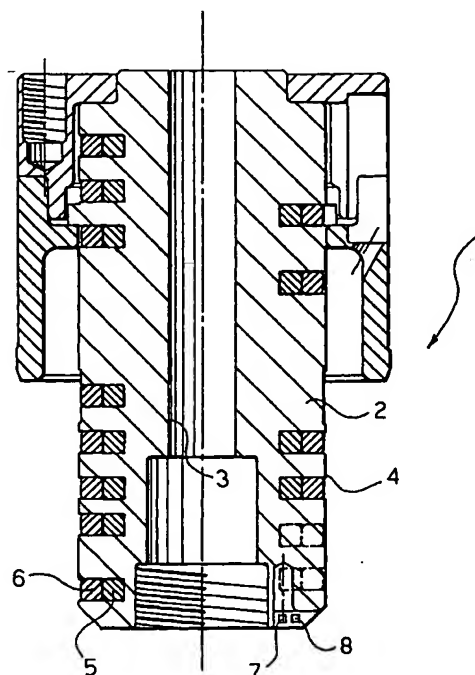
(74) Representative: **Buzzi, Franco et al**
c/o Buzzi, Notaro & Antonielli d'Oulx
Via Maria Vittoria 18
10123 Torino (IT)

(71) Applicant: **Quaser S.r.L**
31040 Chiarano (Treviso) (IT)

(54) **Nozzle for injection moulding of plastic materials**

(57) Nozzle (1) for injection moulding of plastic materials, comprising a generally cylindrical body (2) with spiral-shaped groove (4) on the external surface, in which a first and a second heating resistor (5, 6), which are independent from each other and which are equipped with respective autonomous controlling thermocouples (7, 8), are wound.

Fig. 1



Description

[0001] This invention relates in general to injection moulding for plastic materials and, more specifically, to a nozzle for said injection moulding, of the type comprising a generally cylindrical body with a heating resistor wound on the external surface which is operatively connected to a controlling thermocouple.

[0002] In nozzles of this kind, the function of the heating resistor is evidently to keep the temperature of the nozzle at predefined values according to the composition of the melt plastic material to be injected. The thermocouple is connected to an automatic moulding process electronic control unit, which controls the electrical power to the heating resistor.

[0003] In such nozzles currently in use, an example of which is described and illustrated in European Patent EP-B-0750975 by MOLD MASTERS LIMITED, the efficiency of the moulding process automatic control is closely connected to the functionality, i.e. reliability, of the heating resistor and the respective thermocouple. This is because, in the event of failures to either one of the two components, the temperature of the injected plastic material can no longer be controlled in a suitable fashion, with consequent degrading of the moulding process. On the other hand, replacing the heating resistor or the associated thermocouple would mean stopping the moulding apparatus and be a critical problem, considering the high number of nozzles commonly used in one moulding apparatus.

[0004] The object of this invention is to overcome said problem.

[0005] According to this invention, this object is attained by a nozzle which is provided with a second heating resistor, wound on the external surface, independent from said first heating resistor, and provided with an autonomous control thermocouple.

[0006] Thanks to this idea, the nozzle, and consequently the moulding apparatus where the nozzle is fitted, ensures confidence of operation which is double with respect to that of a traditional nozzle. The thermocouples of the two heating resistors are connected to the moulding process electronic control unit so as to selectively activate either one or the other of the two resistors according to their effective functionality. The two thermocouples can also be calibrated to differentiated values.

[0007] The invention will be better explained by the following detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings purely provided as non-limiting example, in which:

- Figure 1 schematically illustrates a simplified form of an axial cross-section of the nozzle for plastic material injection moulding according to a first embodiment of the invention, and
- Figure 2 shows a variant of figure 1.

[0008] With reference to Figure 1, numeral 1 generally refers to a nozzle for plastic material injection moulding according to this invention. It must be stressed that, for the sake of simplicity of the illustration, the drawing only shows the external body of the nozzle, while the valve consisting of a mobile pin axially reciprocating and co-operating with a corresponding annular valve seat is omitted.

[0009] The body of the nozzle 1, generally indicated by numeral 2, is generically cylindrical with an internal axial passage 3. A spiral-shaped groove 4 is made in the external side of the body 2, in which a first heating resistor 5 and, according to this invention, a second heating resistor 6 are wound.

[0010] The resistors 5 and 6 are entirely independent from each other on a functional point of view.

[0011] In the shown embodiment the resistors 5 and 6 are arranged in a radially superimposed condition in the spiral-shaped groove 4, which has a depth correspondingly adapted to house both therein.

[0012] The two resistors 5, 6 are electrically connected independently one with respect to the other to a source of electrical power, via respective connection terminals which are not visible in the drawing and which are operatively connected (in a way which is known and however within the grasp of sector technicians) each with a respective thermocouple 7, 8.

[0013] The two thermocouples 7, 8, arranged in correspondence with the end of the body 2 destined to face inside the injection mould, are in turn independently connected to a moulding process electronic control unit (conventional and not shown in the drawings), which controls the electrical power to either one or the other resistor 5, 6 according to the predefined moulding process parameters. The electronic control unit also selects either one of the two resistors 5, 6 according to their effective functionality. In this way, for example, the first heating resistor 5 will be normally operative, while the second resistor 6 will be kept as a backup, to be made operative in the case of a failure concerning the first resistor 5 or the respective thermocouple 7.

[0014] A differentiated operation of the two resistors 5, 6, which are also automatically managed by part of the electronic control unit will be possible, if required by operating on the calibration of the respective thermocouples 7, 8.

[0015] The variant shown in Figure 2 is generally similar to the embodiment disclosed with reference to Figure 1, and only the difference shall be disclosed in detail. In this variant the resistors 5 and 6 are arranged in an axially side-by-side condition in the spiral-shaped groove 4, which in this case has a width correspondingly adapted to house both therein.

[0016] Naturally, numerous changes can be implemented to the construction and forms of embodiment of the invention herein envisaged, all comprised within the context of the concept characterising this invention, as defined by the following claims.

Claims

1. Nozzle (1) for injection moulding of plastic materials comprising a generally cylindrical body (2) having an external surface and a heating resistor (5) wound on said external surface and to which a controlling thermocouple (7) is operatively connected, **characterised in that** it is also provided with a second heating resistor (6) wound on said external surface of the body (2), independent from said heating resistor (5) and equipped with an autonomous second controlling thermocouple (8).
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2. Nozzle according to claim 1, in which said heating resistor (5) is housed in a spiral-shaped groove (4) of said cylindrical body (2), **characterised in that** said second heating resistor (6) is also housed in said spiral-shaped groove (4) in a superimposed condition with said heating resistor (5).
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3. Nozzle according to claim 1, in which said heating resistor (5) is housed in a spiral-shaped groove (4) of said cylindrical body (2), **characterised in that** said second heating resistor (6) is also housed in said spiral-shaped groove (4) in a side-by-side condition with said heating resistor (5).
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Fig. 1

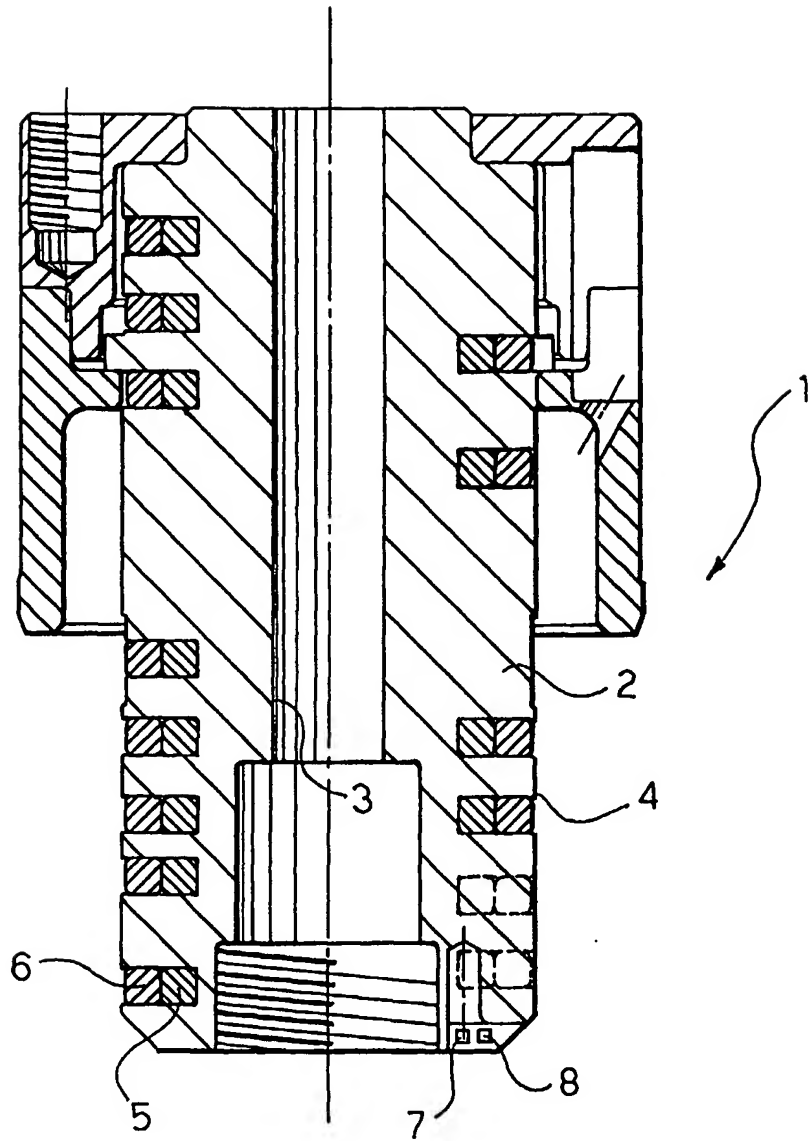
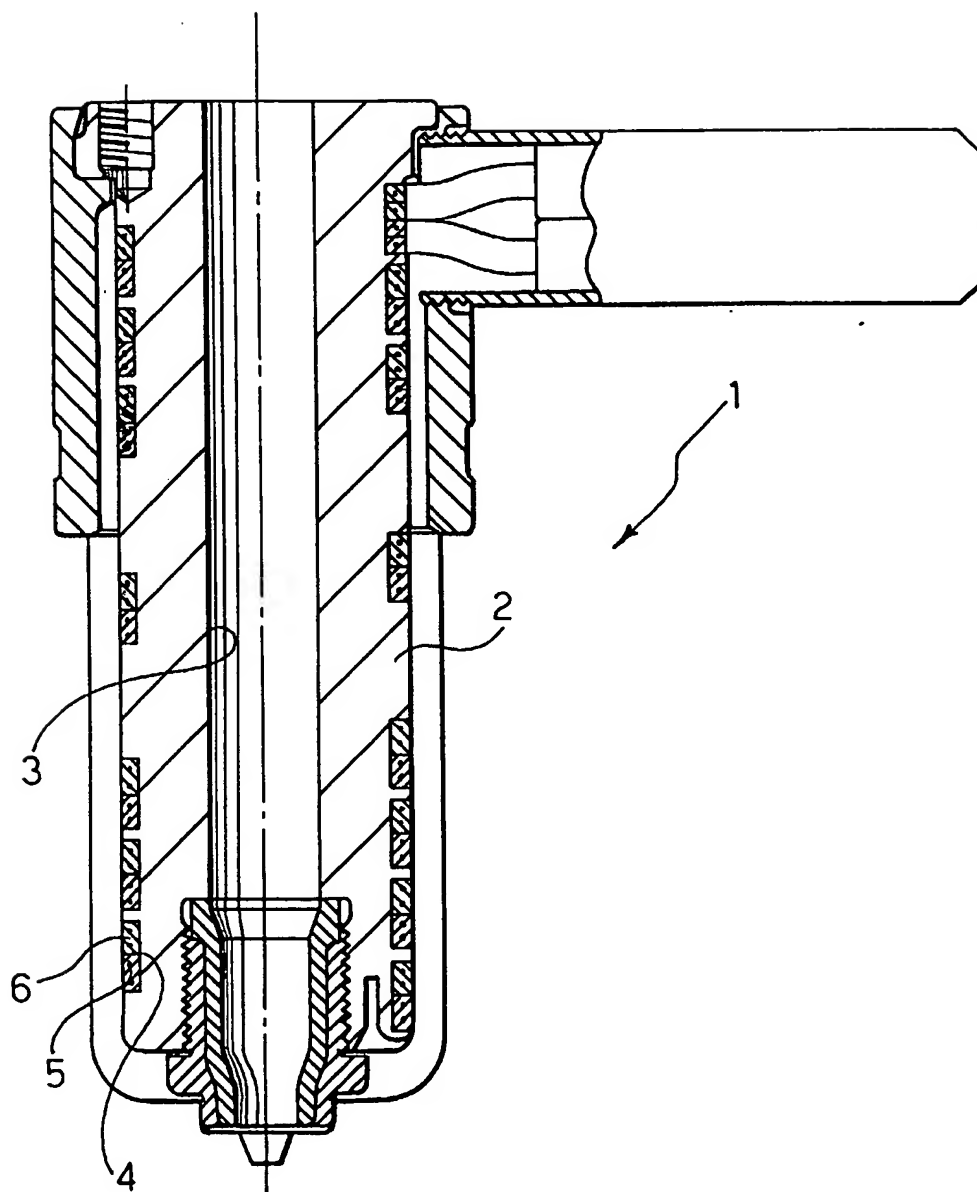


Fig. 2





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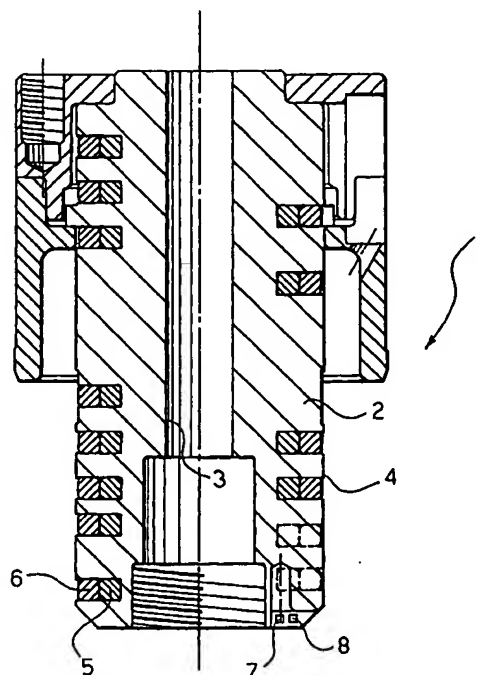
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Fig. 1





European Patent
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Application Number
EP 01 83 0680

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B29C H05B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 February 2003	Examiner Bollen, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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